The Library Assistant:

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The Present Issue.—The appearance of this number in small type is due to a desire to get a maximum amount of news into the smallest possible space. Commencing with the October issue, we hope to be able to provide our readers with an eight page Journal, but whether we shall be able to do this regularly depends largely upon members themselves. By enlisting others into our ranks, and by prompt payment of their subscriptions, which become due on the 1st of October, the Council will be in a position to gather some idea of its financial position early in the forthcoming session.

The New School of Librarianship.—With this issue is distributed the Prospectus of the new Library School to be opened at University College in October. We commend the prospectus to the very careful attention of our readers, and suggest that those who contemplate taking the whole course, shall make proper application to their chiefs for leave of absence and some financial assistance. There will be an official opening by Sir F. G. Kenyon, K.C.B., M.A., D.Lit., Director and Principal Librarian, British Museum, on Wednesday, 8th October, at 5 p.m. Admission by ticket, to be obtained from the Secretary, University College. We hope there will be a good attendance of our members. For the benefit of provincial students unable to attend the School, the Library Association is organizing Correspondence Classes as usual.

To Demobilized Assistants.—Demobilized men who are Candidates for the certificates or diploma of the Library Association should know that the Appointments Board of the Ministry of Labour is likely to give sympathetic consideration if they apply for financial help to enable them to attend the School of Librarianship. The Board issues an able survey of the opportunities available for education and employment to demobilized officers, and also to private soldiers, who, like the average candidate for these certificates, are of a similar educational standing. I should advise young men who are anxious to resume their work for the Diploma to apply to the Board ***with the least possible delay***, pointing out that their course of preparation for the Diploma was interrupted by the war, but possession of the Diploma would be invaluable in enabling them to obtain a remunerative post in an important library, and giving full particulars of their past or present salary, the amount, if any, provided by their parents, etc. Application should be made, if possible, before actual demobilization. If, however, the applicant has already returned to an assistantship, but can obtain leave of absence for training, or if he is willing to devote two years or even one year to a course at the School and give up his post for that object, he would probably have to satisfy the Board that his future career would be considerably bettered by taking the training and the Diploma.

Inasmuch as the School of Librarianship will provide a course of instruction and practical training of such a standard that students who have taken this or secured the Diploma would be qualified for important work in municipal and other libraries, the Board would be ready to make grants both for maintenance and in payment of fees to suitable candidates. Applications should be made to the office of the Appointments Department, Ministry of Labour, for the district in which the applicant resides. The London office is at Horrex's Hotel, Strand, W.C. 2. E. A. B.

Dr. Baker and Mr. Sayers.—The appointment of Dr. E. A. Baker, M.A., to the Directorship of the new School of Librarianship has been confirmed, and, as a consequence, he has resigned the position of Honorary Secretary to the Education Committee of the Library Association. We congratulate Dr. Baker, and take this opportunity of placing on record our appreciation of his work in connection with our professional education. His office has been a thankless one, and his work has often been criticized, but we believe that we are voicing the opinions of the majority of our readers when we say that Dr. Baker has done valuable service for the profession, and is well qualified for his new office. In his stead, an Honorary Fellow of the L.A.A., Mr. W. C. Berwick Sayers, has been appointed. We congratulate him and ourselves upon the appointment, for Mr. Sayers' long connection with the L.A.A. has made him more acquainted with the conditions of present-day library service than any other librarian in the country; we think that our educational interests may be safely entrusted to him. Mr. Sayers is also on the panel of lecturers at the new Library School, and is the only public librarian whose name appears there.

Honours.—We congratulate Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister, F.S.A., F.R.G.S., an Honorary Fellow and a constant friend of the L.A.A., who has recently been knighted for public services, which included the formation of the War Office Surgical Advisory Committee, the R.A.M.C. Bureau, and Emergency Surgical Aid Corps for the Admiralty, and the War Office and the Metropolitan Police.

We also offer congratulations to another Honorary Fellow, Mr. H. D. Roberts, M.B.E., who has had conferred upon him by the King of Italy the distinction of Chevalier of the Crown of Italy, for services rendered during the War.

The NALGO Conference.—The L.A.A. was represented at the Annual Conference of the National Association of Local Government Officers by Messrs. Sexton and Williams, of Cardiff. A full report of the proceedings has already appeared in *The Municipal Officer*. May we again urge upon every assistant the desirability of becoming a member of the NALGO in his own right.

The Library Association Election.—On the whole we regard the result of the recent Council Election as satisfactory from our point of view. Of the nine candidates nominated by us five have secured seats, viz., Messrs. Thorne, Roebuck, Sayers, Soper and Stephen. We are especially glad to know that our Honorary Secretary has been elected.

A New "Manual."—We believe that members have already been circularised to the effect that a new edition of Brown's "Manual of Library Economy," edited by W. C. Berwick Sayers, is in the press. It will be published in October at twenty-five shillings (twenty-one before publication), but it is offered to bona fide students at seventeen shillings and sixpence, payable in two instalments of eight and ninepence. We have seen the copy

and some early proofs, and are of opinion that it is a work which should be possessed by every assistant who has any aspirations at all. It has been completely revised throughout and much enlarged; as prices go to-day it is thoroughly good value. We are grateful to Messrs. Grafton's for bringing out this and other professional works upon which they cannot possibly hope to make a great deal of profit.

Our Roll of Honour.—We propose definitely to close the Roll of Honour of Librarianship on October 1st, and shall be glad if our readers will make this generally known, in order that all who have not yet done so may send us a record of their war services without delay. *We particularly appeal for assistance in obtaining records of every man who has fallen in the Great War.* The Roll, we may point out, will be the only professional record, and has the support of the Library Association as well as of the L.A.A.

Canadian Library News.—By the courtesy of the Department of Education in Ontaria we receive quarterly, as published, a copy of the *Ontario Library Review and Book Selection Guide*, but owing to lack of space are not able to offer comments upon it except occasionally. It is always interesting, and what particularly appeals to us is the enthusiasm for the development of the public library service it never fails to display.

There is a breeziness about its style that one finds attractive compared with the academic frigidity which we have come to regard as proper in professional publications. The Editor is not afraid to be colloquial, nor are his opinions regarding the utility of libraries of that apologetic order with which many librarians on this side of the Atlantic unfortunately seem to be afflicted. The "Review" is issued under the authority of the Minister of Education by the Public Libraries Branch of the Department of Education in the interests of the libraries of the Province: perhaps we may look for a similar journal in this country under the new order of things to be established. A feature is the Book Selection Guide, which is a classified list giving publisher and price of each book, with a brief note. The selection always seems to be good, and the annotation provides the kind of information a librarian needs. There is always a good supply of news, and in this connection the following note is worth quoting:—"Nothing interests library people more than news of what libraries are doing. Every library should send news for publication in the *Ontario Library Review*. Those that have no news should do something that makes news." The advice in the last sentence is sound sense, and we recommend our readers to reflect upon it, while the sentiment expressed in the concluding portion of a paragraph on "Trustees' Responsibility" will meet the cordial approval of all. "A few of our Boards are trying to discover how to render good library service without a good librarian—*it cannot be done.*" We have said enough to show that our confrères in Ontario are well served by their professional journal.

PROCEEDINGS.

South Coast Branch Annual Meeting.

The Seventh Annual Meeting of the South Coast Branch of the L.A.A. was held on Wednesday, July 2nd, at the Worthing Public Library. The members were glad to see present Mr. J. Hutt, M.A., Chief Librarian of Portsmouth and a Vice-President of the Branch Association, and Mrs. Hutt. A telegram was received from Mr. H. D. Roberts, M.B.E., Director of the Public Library, etc., Brighton, regretting his inability to be present. After

tea, kindly provided by Miss Frost, Chief Librarian and Curator, Worthing, the annual business meeting took place, when Mr. W. Law, Chairman of the Branch, presided over a capital attendance. Mr. A. Webb (Honorary Secretary) submitted the annual report, which showed that notwithstanding the difficult times of the last five years the Association was in a very flourishing condition. The present membership of the Branch is 44 (2 Fellows; 13 Members; and 29 Associate Members). During the year, 10 Associates have been enrolled, whilst 4 have resigned. The usual quarterly meetings were of necessity abandoned—but with the dawn of Peace, the return of the men to their usual vocations, and the active co-operation of all concerned it is confidently hoped that a speedy revival of activity will take place. The Committee have congratulated Mr. A. M. Hamblyn (Eastbourne) on his gaining the Meritorious Service Medal. The thanks of the Committee and members generally are due to Miss Gerard, who, in addition to her office of Honorary Treasurer, carried out the secretarial duties during the absence of the Honorary Secretary. The statement of Receipts and Expenditure shewed a credit balance of £3 5s. 11d.

Officers and Committee for the ensuing year were elected as follows:—*Hon. President*: Miss M. Frost (Worthing); *Hon. Vice-Presidents*: Mr. W. R. Butterfield (Hastings), Mr. J. H. Hardcastle (Eastbourne), Mr. J. Hutt, M.A. (Portsmouth), Mr. A. C. Piper (Winchester), and Mr. H. D. Roberts, M.B.E. (Brighton); *Committee*: Misses Young and Barnett (Brighton), Miss Dean (Worthing), Messrs. Hynes and Mew (Hove), and Mr. Hamblyn (Eastbourne). With reference to the Honorary President, Miss Frost, who has been a Vice-President since 1912, succeeds Mr. H. D. Roberts, who held that office with marked ability from the inception of the Branch in 1912 until this year. The Committee passed a resolution expressing their appreciation of the many services rendered to the Branch by Mr. Roberts, and congratulating him upon the honour recently conferred upon him by H.M. the King of Italy. Mr. Roberts has again generously placed a prize of a guinea at the disposal of the Committee. During the meeting, the Honorary Secretary submitted a report as delegate to the 24th annual meeting of the L.A.A., held in London on 25th June last. Mr. Webb described the new Library School which is being established at University College, London, and considerable discussion took place, those taking part including the Misses Frost and Young, and Messrs. Law, Hutt and Webb.

Mr. Law welcomed Miss Frost to the Presidential chair, amidst applause. After a few appropriate remarks, Miss Frost called upon Mr. Webb to deliver an informal address "To Macedonia—and back," based on his experiences in the Army. Votes of thanks to Miss Frost, the Worthing Staff and Mr. Webb terminated the proceedings.

CHANGES AND APPOINTMENTS.

Correction.—*Miss M. E. Day, formerly librarian of the M Division of the Ministry of Food, and later of Australia House, has been appointed librarian to the Economic Section of the League of Nations.

*F. J. Patrick, Reference Library, Birmingham, has been appointed librarian of the Birmingham Commercial Library.

L. R. McColvin, a senior assistant, Croydon, has been appointed librarian-in-charge, Croydon Reference Library.

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* Member, L.A.A.